

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 23, 24, and 29 without prejudice, amend claims 25-28 and 30-44, and add claims 45-46 as follows:

23. (cancelled)

24. (cancelled)

25. (currently amended) The device according to claim ~~24~~ 45, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein the flat display ~~(6)~~ is an electronic cathode-ray picture tube.

26. (currently amended) The device according to claim ~~24~~ 45, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein the flat display ~~(6)~~ is an LCD-display.

27. (currently amended) The device according to claim ~~24~~ 45, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein the flat display screen ~~(6)~~ is an LED-display.

28. (currently amended) The device according to claim ~~24~~ 45, ~~characterized in that the add-on component (2)~~ wherein said attachment represents a flat cover.

29. (cancelled)

30. (currently amended) The device according to claim 24 45,
~~characterized in that wherein said~~ at least one
switching/controlling element ~~(3, 4, 5)~~ is arranged disposed on/in
on the add-on component (2) said attachment.

31. (currently amended) The device according to claim 24 45,
~~characterized in that wherein said~~ at least one
switching/controlling element ~~(3, 4, 5)~~ located disposed on/in the
~~add-on component (2) said attachment~~ is a micro-key, rotary control
or linear path selector.

32. (currently amended) The device according to claim 23 45,
~~characterized in that the wherein said at least one~~
switching/controlling element elements ~~(3, 4, 5)~~ are is
electrically connected to other electric/electronic components
(microprocessors) by means of a printed circuit.

33. (currently amended) The device according to claim 23 46,
~~characterized in that a further comprising the step of generating~~
graphics ~~(11) is generated~~ by means of commercially available
software on the flat display ~~screen (6)~~ radially in relation to the
corresponding switching/controlling elements ~~(3, 4, 5)~~.

34. (currently amended) The device according to claim 33,
~~characterized in that the wherein said graphics (11) is are~~
unicolored.

35. (currently amended) The device according to claim ~~25~~ 33,
~~characterized in that the wherein said graphics (11) is are~~
multicolored.

36. (currently amended) The device according to claim ~~24~~ 45,
~~characterized in that the further comprising a graphic display that~~
indicates switching conditions.

37. (currently amended) The device according to claim ~~24~~ 45,
~~characterized in that the further comprising graphics (11) that~~
show shows a television picture ~~(7)~~.

38. (currently amended) The device according to claim ~~24~~ 45,
~~characterized in that the add on component (2) wherein said~~
attachment is made of plastic.

39. (currently amended) The device according to claim ~~24~~ 45,
~~characterized in that the add on component (2) wherein said~~
attachment is made of metal.

40. (currently amended) The device according to claim ~~24~~ 45,
~~characterized in that the add on component (2) has wherein said~~
attachment has breakthroughs (8, 9, 10). ^{vi}

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41. (currently amended) The device according to claim 40,
~~characterized in that the wherein said breakthroughs (8, 9, 10)~~
serve as windows.

42. (currently amended) The device according to claim ~~39~~ 40,
~~characterized in that the wherein said attachment has~~ surfaces
between the said breakthroughs ~~(8, 9, 10)~~ that receive
switching/controlling elements ~~(3, 4, 5).~~

43. (currently amended) The device according to claim ~~23~~ 45,
~~characterized in that the wherein~~ controls of ~~the~~ said
switching/controlling elements ~~(3, 4, 5)~~ are shaped in an
ergonomically useful manner.

44. (currently amended) The device according to claim ~~23~~ 45,
~~characterized in that the wherein the~~ flat display ~~(6)~~ is a plasma
display tube.

45. (new) A device for use with a flat display comprising:

an attachment coupled in front of the flat display and having at least one transparent region; and

at least one electrical switching/controlling element integrated with said attachment, wherein said at least one transparent region is disposed radially in relation to said at least one electrical switching/controlling element;

wherein the flat display is divided into a plurality of areas via software, with said plurality of different areas relating to said at least one transparent region, and wherein said plurality of areas simultaneously dynamically indicate different functional conditions of a connected device.

46. (new) A method for representing a surface with an attachment comprising at least one electrical switching/controlling element and being arranged above a flat display divided in terms of software into a plurality of areas, comprising the steps of:

employing a commercially available device for the flat display;

dividing the flat display into a plurality of different areas with a commercially available software;

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arranging at least one area of said plurality of
different areas in a transparent region of the attachment, radially
in relation to the electrical switching/controlling element; and

simultaneously dynamically indicating different
functional conditions of a connected device through the individual
areas.
